Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS TAGS: PFOR, GR, TUR SUBJECT: CYPRUS

- 1. FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL POINTS WHICH EMERGED DURING SEPTEMBER 13 COURTESY CALL BY NEW GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS ON UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS SISCO.
- 2. SISCO BEGAN BY EXPRESSING VIEW THAT, WHATEVER CURRENT DISAGREEMENTS OR DIFFICULTIES MAY BE, IT IS IN MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH UNITED STATES AND GREECE TO FIND WAYS TO RESTORE TRADITIONALLY CLOSE RELATIONS. THE STRATEGIC AND OTHER FACTORS UNDERLYING MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS STILL BASICALLY APPLY, NOTWITHSTANDING IMPROVEMENTS IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS. COMMON THREAT TO UNITED STATES AND GREECE STILL REMAINS. ON CYPRUS, SITUATION WE FACE WAS NOT CAUSED BY USG NOR THE PRESENT GREEK GOVERNMENT.

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WE SUPPORT THE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT, AND WE STRONGLY FAVOR TREND TOWARDS RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN GREECE. WE REGARD KARAMANLIS AS A FRIEND; WE UNDERSTAND DIFFICULSITUATION HE FACES; AND WE APPRECIATE HIS EFFORTS TO KEEP IN CHECK MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTI-AMERICANISM. IN WORKING TOWARDS A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT,

UNITED STATES CAN PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE.
WE BELIEVE NO SETTLEMENT OF CYPRUS WILL BE DURABLE UNLESS
IT IS SATISFACTORY TO BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY. AT PRESENT
MOMENT, WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT NEITHER GOG NOR GOT HAS
PRECLUDED MOVEMENT TOWARDS A FEDERAL ARRANGEMENT FOR THE
ISLAND. WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED THAT CLERIDES AND
DENKTASH SEEM TO BE MAKING PROGRESS IN THEIR TALKS,
PARTICULARLY ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES.

- 3. ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED SISCO'S ATTENTION TO REPORT THAT TURKS ARE THREATENING TO "SAVE" TURKISH-CYPRIOTS IN SOUTHERN PART OF ISLAND AND THAT OLCAY HAD SPOKEN TO WALDHEIM ON THIS SUBJECT. SISCO RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT WE HAD JUST RECEIVED THIS REPORT, THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO IT. BUT THAT WE SEE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR FURTHER TURKISH MILITARY ACTION ON CYPRUS. ALEXANDRAKIS EMPHA-SIZED THAT HE AGREED FULLY WITH SISCO'S VIEW ON NEED TO RESTORE CLOSE U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS AND TO ACHIEVE CYPRUS SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT UNITED STATES HAS CREDIT IN ANKARA, BUT THOUGHT TURKS WOULD ONLY SHOW RESPECT FOR A THIRD PARTY IF IT WERE FIRM AND WERE WILLING TO SUPPORT ITS POSITION WITH MORE THAN WORDS. THE GREEKS NEED A POSITIVE GESTURE OF GOODWILL BY THE TURKS, HE SAID, BECAUSE TURKEY HAS TWICE VIOLATED ITS OWN SIGNATURE ON CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS.
- 4. SISCO REITERATED THAT A FRAMEWORK MUST FIRST BE ESTABLISHED FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THEN THE UNITED STATES WILL WORK FOR AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS REASONABLE. IN OUR VIEW, THE MAIN ISSUES, I.E. SIZE OF TURKISH ZONE, MOVEMENT OF POPULATION, AND TROOP REDUCTION ARE NEGOTIABLE. WE HAVE NOT YET FOUND KEY FOR STARTING NEGOTIATIONS, BUT USG WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ASSURE THAT A NEGOTIATING PROCESS CONFIDENTIAL

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GETS UNDERWAY. INGERSOLL

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